

RESOLUTIONS 2007

The resolutions contained in this packet
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National Student Nurses' Association, Inc.
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**2007 NSNA RESOLUTIONS
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TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING AWARENESS AMONG NURSING STUDENTS CONCERNING THE HEALTH DISPARITIES OF MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARMWORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

SUBMITTED BY: Georgia Southwestern State University, Americus, Georgia

WHEREAS, “Agriculture is a multi-billion dollar industry”; and
WHEREAS, 85% of agricultural work is done by hand, the vast majority of which is performed by migrant and seasonal farm workers; and
WHEREAS, compared to the general population, migrant and seasonal farm workers have higher rates of infectious diseases, occupational health issues, mental health problems, and other co-morbidities; and
WHEREAS, the goals of Healthy People 2010 are to increase quality and years of healthy life and to eliminate health disparities; therefore be it
RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) promote increased awareness among nursing students about the health disparities affecting migrant workers; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents and nursing programs to participate in culturally competent health education, promotion, and disease prevention programs; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage constituents to raise public awareness about this issue by publishing articles in *Imprint* magazine and providing focus sessions about migrant health at the NSNA MidYear Conference and Annual Conventions, if feasible; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the NSNA support research on migrant health and evidence-based practice directed toward the elimination of health disparities among migrant and seasonal farm workers and their families; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Medical Association, the National Center for Farmworker Health, Inc., the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the American Public Health Association, the National League for Nursing, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF CLINICAL EDUCATION STANDARDS FOR DISTANCE LEARNERS

SUBMITTED BY: NATIONAL STUDENT NURSES' ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, creative solutions in nursing education delivery are necessary to address the growing nursing shortage; and

WHEREAS, the proliferation of distance education programs has assisted in alleviating the nursing shortage by dramatically increasing access to nursing education and represents a growing number of the nursing student population; and

WHEREAS, clinical experiences that are led by an appropriately prepared clinical instructor in an actual care delivery setting throughout one's nursing education are the essential foundation for entry into safe nursing practice; and

WHEREAS, professionalization, which can be described as "the acquisition of the requisite knowledge, skills, values and attitudes which are characteristic of the profession" is achieved through face-to-face interaction with faculty and other healthcare providers in the clinical setting, and is a vital part of nursing education; and

WHEREAS, while skills practiced in a nursing simulation lab complement nursing education, they are not an appropriate or adequate substitute for the actual clinical environment; and

WHEREAS, some distance learning programs give clinical experience credit for registration, certification, and/or licensure in other allied health fields, such as practical nursing or paramedic training; these prior experiences may not equate with the clinical practice which prepares nursing students to qualify for licensure as a registered nurse (RN) in some jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, admission requirements for some advanced degree programs in nursing limit or prohibit admission of applicants from undergraduate programs without clinical experience; and

WHEREAS, the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) serves as an advocate for nursing students and seeks "to assume responsibility for contributing to nursing education in order to provide for the highest quality health care" and "to have direct input into standards of nursing education and influence the educational process"; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage state boards of nursing and accrediting bodies, the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, and the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, to set standards requiring that all RN licensure programs include clinical experience supervised by a qualified instructor as a requirement of each clinical course in their nursing education program; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage nursing students to carefully evaluate whether a distance education program will facilitate meeting their short- and long-term career goals; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA provide programs at the MidYear Conference and Annual Convention, and publish articles in *Imprint* and on the NSNA website that educate current and potential nursing students about how to choose a nursing program including, but not limited to, the benefits of instructor-guided clinical experiences, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the National Nursing Staff Development Organization, the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education, the Alliance for Nursing Accreditation,

the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, all individual State Boards of Nursing, and all others deemed appropriate by NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF ADVOCATING FOR AN ACCURATE AND IMPROVED PROFESSIONAL PORTRAYAL OF NURSES AND THE NURSING PROFESSION

SUBMITTED BY: UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL ASSOCIATION OF NURSING STUDENTS

WHEREAS, “Nurses are often characterized by the media as immoral, less than bright, selfish, and concerned more about their personal lives than about providing safe and appropriate care for their patients”; and

WHEREAS, there is a continuing pattern of derogatory stereotypes against men in nursing; and

WHEREAS, “The deep-seated association of nursing and sexuality discourages practicing and potential nurses, fosters sexual violence in the workplace, and contributes to an atmosphere of disrespect that weakens nurses’ claims to adequate clinical and educational resources”; and

WHEREAS, “Desexualizing the nursing image is a key part of building the strength the profession needs to overcome the current crisis”; and

WHEREAS, “[Patients] who felt nurses were ethical and honest apparently felt they had only the most limited knowledge and would not ask them about women’s health, osteoporosis, or sexually transmitted diseases”; and

WHEREAS, “Lack of understanding of nursing as a profession by the general public is a common phenomenon that contributes to nurses’ turnover intention”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to support increased awareness of and education about the nursing image; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to counter negative media with appropriate and correct information about the nursing profession which fosters a positive nursing image; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage integration of content on the effect of the nursing image and individual responsibility for its correction into nursing curricula; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA foster the importance of collective voice on the image of nursing by educating its constituents through articles in *Imprint* and focus sessions at convention, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the National League for Nursing, the Center for Nursing Advocacy, Sigma Theta Tau International, the American Assembly for Men in Nursing, the American College of Healthcare Executives, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the American Hospital Association, the executive producers of television programs such as House, Grey’s Anatomy, ER, Scrubs, and CSI and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF IMPROVED EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE EDUCATION AND FURTHER RESEARCH REGARDING THE EFFECTS OF PAIN IN THE NEONATE POPULATION

SUBMITTED BY: THE CALIFORNIA NURSING STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (CNSA)

WHEREAS, the 2001 House of Delegates passed a resolution supporting pain as the fifth vital sign; and

WHEREAS, “Repeated exposure to procedural pain experienced by neonates in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) is of particular concern, because... the natural environment for the infant was meant to be the protective intrauterine environment”; and

WHEREAS, “Multiple lines of evidence suggest that early repeated and prolonged pain exposure may contribute to altered development of pain systems, behavior, cognition, and learning in former preterm infants later in childhood”; and

WHEREAS, “Studies have documented the vast number of invasive procedures that are performed in newborn infants, often without analgesia”; and

WHEREAS, neonates were exposed to a range of zero to 53 procedures daily while approximately 40% did not receive any analgesia during their stay; and

WHEREAS, “numerous trials have concluded that analgesics are effective for the management of procedural pain in the neonate”; and

WHEREAS, “there are consistent data that preterm infants have a lower threshold to tactile stimulation and appear to be hypersensitive to pain”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) encourages its constituents to collaborate with professional nursing and health care organizations to increase evidence-based research and education regarding neonatal pain; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA print an article in *Dean’s Notes* encouraging the incorporation of pain education and research in the neonate population into their student curriculum at the undergraduate and graduate levels, if feasible, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA promote awareness about the physiology, treatment and signs and symptoms of pain in the neonate through *Imprint*, workshops during convention, community health projects, and all other methods deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Nurses Association, the National Association of Neonatal Nurses, the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Nurse Practitioners, the National League for Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the Society of Pediatric Nurses, the American Medical Association, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATIONAL MOBILITY OF REGISTERED NURSES

SUBMITTED BY: THREE RIVERS COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENT NURSES ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, the 1997 House of Delegates passed a resolution stating that “the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) recognizes the contributions of associate, baccalaureate, diploma, generic masters in nursing, and the doctorate of nursing levels of entry into practice, and all education programs successfully prepare individuals for the registered nurse role”; and

WHEREAS, the NSNA views preparation for registered nursing on a continuum that extends from diploma nursing through advanced levels of education for registered nursing, culminating in doctoral preparation, with opportunity to exit into practice at several points along the continuum; and

WHEREAS, the practice of nursing by a registered nurse is supported by multiple educational pathways to registered nurse licensure; and

WHEREAS, during this time of great shortage, acknowledging that 66% of all registered nurses are currently prepared at the associate degree level, the mandating of a baccalaureate degree in nursing could drastically reduce the supply of registered nurses; and

WHEREAS, our current system is not producing enough registered nurses with bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees to meet today’s and tomorrow’s needs for nursing faculty, nursing leadership, and nursing research positions; and

WHEREAS, articulation systems, which are formalized agreements between institutions of higher learning that acknowledge and provide credit for previously earned educational credit at the diploma, associate degree and baccalaureate levels, will provide increased opportunities for self directed educational advancement; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) support an education articulation system to facilitate the advancement of nurses from one educational level to another in support of their preparation for leadership, education, and other advance practice roles; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to collaborate with their respective stakeholders (employers, consumers, providers), state boards of nursing, and state legislatures to achieve this vision; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the Speaker of the House, the President Protempore of the Senate, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INTEGRATION OF HUMAN PATIENT SIMULATOR TECHNOLOGY IN NURSING CURRICULUM

SUBMITTED BY: CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

WHEREAS, Human Patient Simulators (HPS) have been used as an effective teaching tool for over 35 years in other health care professions; and

WHEREAS, “simulation provides the opportunity for repeated clinical and reflective practice, where students can learn and make mistakes in a safe and controlled environment”; and

WHEREAS, HPS can enhance critical thinking, reasoning, crisis management, decision making and leadership skills needed for accurate clinical judgment, contributing to safer and more effective patient care; and

WHEREAS, “the simulation experience provides students with the opportunity to manage specific clinical events that they may not otherwise have encountered in their clinical practicums”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) support the integration of simulator technology in nursing curricula; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA include an article on the integration of Human Patient Simulators (HPS) in nursing curricula in *Dean’s Notes*, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA urge faculty members to pursue continuing education about HPS; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA promote awareness through articles in *Imprint*, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, and any others deemed necessary by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED STATE AND FEDERAL REGULATION OF MANDATORY OVERTIME FOR NURSES TO REDUCE FATIGUE-RELATED NURSING ERRORS AND INCREASE PATIENT SAFETY IN THE HOSPITAL SETTING

SUBMITTED BY: THE SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY NURSING STUDENT ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, mandatory overtime is defined as “a policy or request from hospital management to work hours in excess of what an employee has been scheduled”; and

WHEREAS, “most nurses, in fact, do not have a choice but to stay even when they are exhausted because employers threaten discipline, termination or even loss of licensure when an employee refuses to work overtime”; and

WHEREAS, many studies have indicated that large percentages of nurses work mandatory overtime, and that “the likelihood of making an error increased with longer work hours”; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) recommends that nurses be prohibited from working “in excess of 12 hours in a specified 24 hour period and in excess of 60 hours per 7-day period”; and

WHEREAS, many states have enacted or introduced legislation to regulate or prohibit mandatory overtime; however, a federal bill has yet to be passed; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) advocate for increased federal and state regulation of mandatory overtime for nurses; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA and its constituents promote awareness of current state and federal laws and proposed legislation through *Imprint*, the NSNA website, and any other mediums deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees AFL-CIO (AFSCME), the American Hospital Association, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, the United American Nurses AFL-CIO, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED AWARENESS AND INCLUSION OF NURSING STUDENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STATE AND FEDERAL INFLUENZA PANDEMIC RESPONSE PLANS

SUBMITTED BY: THE STUDENT NURSES' ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, “pandemic is defined as disease affecting or attacking the population of an extensive region, including several countries, and/or continent(s)”; and

WHEREAS, “the present state of alert among world health authorities is the belief that we are witnessing the development of a . . . once in a 100-year major flu pandemic due to the emergence of a[n] H5N1 Influenza virus type A [Avian Influenza]”; and

WHEREAS, “although person-to-person transmission of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) appears to be rare, one major concern is that a person infected with HPAI could also become co-infected with a normal human influenza virus. Genetic material could be exchanged between the HPAI virus and the human influenza virus, which could result in an influenza virus that is transmitted easily from person-to-person”; and

WHEREAS, “an influenza pandemic will post unique challenges . . . medical services and health care workers . . . will be overwhelmed . . . [and] may not be able to provide essential care to all patients in need”; and

WHEREAS, ‘the Influenza Pandemic Response Plan (IPRP) addresses the unique challenges that could rapidly unfold . . . [and] identifies the roles and responsibilities of key public health responders”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) promote increased awareness and inclusion of nursing students in the implementation of state and federal Influenza Pandemic Response Plans; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to collaborate with local, state, and federal pandemic response committees, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA provide continued updates regarding the development and implementation of Influenza Pandemic Response Plans through the use of *Imprint* articles and/or NSNA website updates, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA provide a copy of this resolution to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Hospital Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Nurses Credentialing Center, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Red Cross, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the National League for Nursing, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT
EDUCATION/PREVENTION OF UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES/DEATHS IN
CHILDREN UNDER AGE 14 YEARS**

SUBMITTED BY: NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF NURSING STUDENTS

WHEREAS, “The leading causes of accidental injury-related deaths of children under age 14 are motor vehicle accidents, suffocation, drowning, fire/burns, pedestrian injury, other land transport accidents, poisoning, falls and others”; and

WHEREAS, “motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of injury deaths for children ages 1-14 and the second leading cause for children 0-1”; and

WHEREAS, “drowning is the second leading cause of accidental injury-related death among children ages 1 to 14 and the leading cause of accidental injury-related death among children ages 1 to 4; furthermore, drowning can occur in as little as one inch of water”; and

WHEREAS, “Head injury is the leading cause of death in bicycle crashes and the most important determinant of bicycle-related death and permanent disability”; and

WHEREAS, “among children ages 5 and under, 60% of poisoning exposures are by non-pharmaceutical products...[and] 40% are by pharmaceuticals”; and

WHEREAS, “airway obstruction is the leading cause of accidental injury-related deaths among infants under the age of 1”; and

WHEREAS, “scald burn injury is the most common type of burn related injury among young children... that could have been prevented through behavioral and environmental modification”; and

WHEREAS, children placed in adult beds are at an increased risk for airway obstruction as a result of entrapment in bed structures and suffocation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to reduce and prevent unintentional childhood injury by advocating for stronger and better-enforced child safety laws and regulations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to help children stay safe through safety education programs and by providing resources through the community health link, the NSNA website, and *Imprint*, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to become involved with local community programs that educate families about the importance of children using safe behavior; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges in Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Department of Education, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF ALLOWING CONDOMS IN ALL ADULT CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDUCING THE SPREAD OF HIV AMONG INMATES

SUBMITTED BY: GEORGIA ASSOCIATION OF NURSING STUDENTS

WHEREAS, the prevalence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection in state and federal prisons is significantly higher than in the general population; and

WHEREAS, the correct and consistent use of latex condoms has been shown to be effective in preventing transmission of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV; and

WHEREAS, condoms are considered contraband in prisons due to fears that condom possession will lead to increased violence, drug smuggling, and increased sexual activity among inmates; and

WHEREAS, facilities that allow the use of condoms have reported no increase in violence or other associated problems; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend that states consider developing broader programs aimed at reducing HIV transmission in prisons, which includes permitting condoms inside correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, this recommendation is consistent with recommendations recently issued by the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, which called for improved HIV prevention in U.S. prisons, jails, and correctional facilities; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) and its constituents encourage the Federal and State Departments of Corrections and current legislative bodies to consider permitting condom possession among inmates as part of a comprehensive strategy to promote education on abstinence as well as the correct use of condoms for the reduction of HIV transmission; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA publish an informative article on this topic in *Imprint* magazine, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to participate in community awareness programs about this issue; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send copies of this resolution to the President of the United States of America, the Federal Bureau of Prisons, the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ), the Office of Deputy Attorney General, the USDOJ Criminal Division, the USDOJ Office of Legislative Affairs, the USDOJ Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, the USDOJ Office of Justice Programs, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nurses, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, and all other organizations that the NSNA Board of Directors deems appropriate.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED EDUCATION ABOUT THE DIFFERENCES IN CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS IN WOMEN

SUBMITTED BY: FLORIDA NURSING STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, cardiovascular disease claims more lives each year than the next four leading causes of death combined, which are cancer, chronic lower respiratory diseases, accidents, and diabetes mellitus; and

WHEREAS, Women and often their physicians fail to recognize that the warning signs for heart disease in women differ from the "classic" symptoms commonly experienced by men; and

WHEREAS, women are less likely than men to receive beta-blockers, ACE inhibitors, or even aspirin after a heart attack; and

WHEREAS, physicians are less likely to order tests to evaluate chest pain in women than in men; furthermore, women who have an acute myocardial infarction (MI) undergo heart catheterization less often than men; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to use websites such as the American Heart Association and the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute; and that the NSNA link the above mentioned websites to a resource page in the NSNA website, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to promote education about the different signs and symptoms of cardiovascular disease among women

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to elect public officials who show support for increasing this knowledge; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National League for Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Heart Association, the American Nurses Association, the Women's Heart Foundation, the National Heart, Blood and Lung Institute, the American Medical Association, the publishers of nursing texts, if feasible, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING AWARENESS AND PREVENTION OF HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS

SUBMITTED BY: THE CHAPTER OF NURSING STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO AND EMORY STUDENT NURSES ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, human papillomavirus (HPV) infection is a highly prevalent sexually transmitted infection (STI) with over 20 million people currently infected; and

WHEREAS, HPV 16 and 18 are leading causes of cervical cancer, while HPV 6 and 11 are associated with genital and respiratory tract warts; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that the majority of men and women have a significant knowledge deficit about HPV; and

WHEREAS, in a recent study "Participants' limited awareness and knowledge made it difficult for them to discuss what actions they might take to prevent HPV infection"; and

WHEREAS, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved a vaccine for females ages nine to 26 and recommends that individuals receive the vaccination before the start of sexual activity; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) support the awareness of and education about human papillomavirus (HPV) encompassing potential risks, prevalence, symptoms, annual screening, and prevention, including vaccination and annual screenings to the general public regardless of age, gender, race, or socioeconomic status; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to collaborate with nursing programs to include education about HPV in their curricula; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to work with legislators in order to expand the existing awareness of HPV; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage the publication of information related to the precautions an individual must take to prevent contracting HPV in *Imprint* and other nursing periodicals, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Cancer Society, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Social Health Association, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the American Medical Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Public Health Association, the Joint Commission, the National League for Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION FOR LIFE-TIME IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE COVERAGE FOR KIDNEY TRANSPLANT PATIENTS

SUBMITTED BY: MICHIGAN STUDENT NURSE ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, there are many individuals in the United States waiting for a kidney transplant due to insufficient organ donors or the inability to pay for the drugs needed to maintain the transplant; and

WHEREAS, a transplant may greatly improve a potential recipient's quality of life; and

WHEREAS, anti-rejection medications are essential to the success of transplantation and the patient must be compliant; however, high medication cost is a major factor in non-compliance; and

WHEREAS, medication compliance reduces the need for future dialysis, which in turn reduces cost; and

WHEREAS, due to a preexisting medical condition many insurance companies will not grant coverage to these patients; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to support federal legislation regarding the coverage of immunosuppressive drugs for kidney transplant recipients; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA educate its constituents through articles in *Imprint*, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the President of the United States, the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Nephrology Nurses Association, the National Kidney Foundation, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED AWARENESS AND EDUCATION OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS REGARDING TIMELY REFERRALS TO HOSPICE CARE FOR ALL TERMINALLY ILL PATIENTS

SUBMITTED BY: SALISBURY UNIVERSITY STUDENT NURSES' ASSOCIATION

WHEREAS, "Hospice is comprehensive and coordinated palliative care for patients with limited life expectancy, provided both at home and in institutional settings"; and
WHEREAS, with the use of an interdisciplinary team approach, hospice focuses on comfort, dignity and quality of life; and
WHEREAS, "Difficulty facing and discussing death and dying, by patients, families, and clinicians, continues to be the major reason that hospice is underused and so many patients are referred very late in the course of a terminal illness"; and
WHEREAS, nurses across the spectrum should be knowledgeable about hospice; therefore be it
RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) support the inclusion of education regarding end-of-life care in nursing curricula; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to educate the community about end-of-life care and the availability of hospice; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the NSNA publish an article in *Imprint*, including education on early referrals to hospice care, if feasible; and be it further
RESOLVED, that the NSNA send copies of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the American Medical Association, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the Health Occupation Students of America, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization, the National League for Nursing, the National Association for Home Care and Hospice, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF PROMOTING EARLY ASSESSMENT OF ALCOHOL DEPENDENCE IN PATIENTS IN THE ACUTE CARE SETTING TO DECREASE THE RISK OF ALCOHOL WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS

SUBMITTED BY: MAURINE CHURCH COBURN SCHOOL OF NURSING, MONTEREY PENINSULA COLLEGE

WHEREAS, “Alcoholism often goes undiagnosed; the rate of screening for alcohol consumption in health care settings remains lower than 50%”; and

WHEREAS, “an estimated 15-20% of all primary care and hospitalized patients are dependent on alcohol. This dependence often remains hidden until withdrawal signs appear”; and

WHEREAS, unanticipated cessation of alcohol can lead to unexpected alcohol withdrawal symptoms which “ranges from such minor symptoms as insomnia and tremulousness to severe complications such as withdrawal seizures and delirium tremens”; and

WHEREAS, alcohol related complications can be prevented or treated by early identification of minor withdrawal symptoms, which can appear in as little as 6-12 hours, and major withdrawal symptoms, which can appear within 48-72 hours after cessation of alcohol use; and

WHEREAS, “conducting alcohol screening on patients admitted to the hospital cues the nurse to identify those patients in jeopardy of alcohol withdrawal syndrome” and its symptoms; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to promote early assessment for alcohol dependence in patients in the acute care setting; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to utilize the available assessment tools that would identify patients at risk for alcohol withdrawal; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage inclusion of content about alcohol dependence and withdrawal assessments in nursing program curricula, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA publish articles on early assessment of all patients in the acute care setting in *Imprint*, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Nurses Association, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the American Society of Addiction Medicine, the Gordie Foundation, the International Nurses Society on Addictions, the National Association of School Nurses, the International Society of Psychiatric-Mental Health Nurses, the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the National League for Nursing, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED ADVOCACY, RESEARCH, AND EDUCATION FOR IMPROVED WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION FOR NURSING STUDENTS

SUBMITTED BY: TENNESSEE ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT NURSES

WHEREAS, the National Student Nurses' Association House of Delegates passed a resolution in 2002 regarding whistleblower protection for professional nurses; and

WHEREAS, a students' position in whistleblowing is undefined and unprotected because there is no legislation, therefore making students vulnerable and in need of protection; and

WHEREAS, "Whistleblower suits have become a multi-billion dollar industry and will continue to increase in number and size"; and

WHEREAS, "history is tainted with whistleblowers who have come forward only to be harassed, denied increases or promotions, or dismissed from the job all together " and students are routinely exposed to such experiences in clinical settings; and

WHEREAS, "because of the unpredictable consequences of whistleblowing today ...harmful and unethical practices will continue to plague the safety of patients and clients which further decreases the quality of patient care"; and

WHEREAS, whistleblower laws fail to provide widespread protection; and

WHEREAS, nursing students function under the supervision of a registered nurse, requiring them to maintain the nursing code of ethics; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) advocate for student education and research regarding whistleblower protection; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to support the improvement of whistleblower protection in local, state, and national legislation and/or institutional policy as it relates to nursing students; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage nursing programs to incorporate whistleblowing education into their nursing curricula; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the Board of Regents in every state, territory, and commonwealth of the U.S., if feasible and all others deemed appropriate by the National Student Nurses Association Board of Directors.

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF IMPROVING THE NURSE-PHYSICIAN RELATIONSHIP

SUBMITTED BY: JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF NURSING

WHEREAS, in some Magnet hospitals, “one fourth to one third of the nurses reported having neutral or negative nurse/physician relationships”; and

WHEREAS, poor collaboration negatively affects “patient and family satisfaction, patient safety and outcomes, professional staff satisfaction, nurse retention and cost”; and

WHEREAS, improved patient care, nurse job satisfaction, and low turnover are all products of good nurse-physician relationships; and

WHEREAS, “The Institute of Medicine [IOM] points to ‘a[n] historical lack of interprofessional cooperation’ as one of the...barriers to safety in hospitals”; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Commission’s second National Patient Safety Goal for 2007 is to “improve the effectiveness of communication among caregivers”; and

WHEREAS, “evidence documenting differing perceptions about the importance and effectiveness of nurse-physician collaboration among nurses, physicians and healthcare executives points to an imperative that effective methods be developed to improve working relationships between nurses and physicians”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses’ Association (NSNA) promote the establishment of positive nurse-physician relationships built on trust and mutual respect; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to improve their own relationships with physicians and other members of the healthcare team through the use of skilled communication and true collaboration; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA advocate for the education of nursing students, as well as medical students, in the art of communication, collaboration, and relationship building techniques; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage the publication of information regarding establishing and maintaining positive nurse-physician relationships in *Imprint* and other nursing periodicals, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the American Nurses Credentialing Center, the Joint Commission, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Medical Student Association, the Student Health Alliance, The American Osteopathic Association, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.